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Assessing LA County Property for Future Early Care and Learning Sites

Research demonstrates that 90% of a baby’s brain develops by the age of five. Further, children who attend high-quality early care and education programs perform better on standardized tests in reading and math, are less likely to be placed in special education, are less likely to be held back a grade, and are more likely to graduate from high school and attend college.¹ Based on cost-benefit analysis, economists share that investing in high-quality early care and education programs is an effective strategy for closing achievement gaps.²

Statewide, the need for quality early care and education services is well documented. California is the fifth largest economy in the world, yet it is providing affordable baby and toddler early learning experiences to less than 14% of eligible

¹ McCoy, D. C., et al. (2017) Impacts of Early Childhood Education on Medium-and Long-Term Educational Outcomes.” Educational Research 46(8) 474-487.

² Garcia, J. L., et al (2017) Quantifying the Life-cycle Benefits of a Prototypical Early Childhood Program. No. w23479. National Bureau of Economic Research.

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families.³ Los Angeles County is home to 370,313 babies and toddlers. Over half (51%) are eligible for California subsidized early learning programs. Yet, only 6% (11,997) of income-eligible babies and toddlers are served by State subsidies.⁴

While the demand for early care and education is tremendous, the industry is unable to meet this need, especially for working-class communities. This crisis is due to large demand for subsidized ECE services, a shortage of childcare facilities, and minimal state and local funding. Children are missing essential learning and developmental opportunities to create a strong foundation necessary for school readiness and ultimately for successful life outcomes. Increasing access to affordable early care and education will provide key support and opportunities for working-class families to keep their jobs, pay their bills, and more broadly, help reduce the homelessness and housing crisis in the county.

In October, the Board of Supervisors directed the Office of Child Protection, in conjunction with the Department of Public Health and the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development, to report-back with a comprehensive financial landscape analysis to determine what funding currently supports Early Care and Education services throughout Los Angeles County. Learning more about the County's fiscal landscape for early care and education is essential, but that understanding must be coupled with a deeper understanding of the property available for future sites for child

³ "The State of Early Care and Education in Los Angeles County Executive Summary." Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee 2017 Needs Assessment. (2017).

⁴ Pleitéz Howell, K., Watson, E., & Lara, A. (2018) "Babies and Toddlers in Los Angeles County: Prioritizing High-Quality Early Care and Education to Set Children on a Path to Success. Recommendations for Decision Makers. Policy Brief by Advancement Project California.

early care and education.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct CEO, in consultation with the Policy Roundtable for Child Care and Development and Office for Advancement of Early Care and Education, housed within the Department of Public Health, Internal Services Department and Public Works, to report back in 120 days on the following:

1. Los Angeles County-owned property which could be used to build new early care and education facilities in accordance with state and local regulations;
and
2. Los Angeles County-owned buildings, currently not in use, which could be used for child care services. These buildings may be standalone facilities or have vacant rooms or areas that would be suitable for renovation.

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